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governors of Maryland. The Library Act of 1700 is preserved and may be read, *in extenso*, in one of Trott's works, which seems to have escaped Mr. McCrady's notice: "The Laws of the British Plantations in America relating to the Church, the Clergy, Religion and Learning;" folio, London, 1721. The library in Charleston itself was not the first public one in America (p. 353). That honor is due either to the more or less vague early Boston Library, or to the one Dr. Bray established at Annapolis in Maryland. Rev. John Cotton (p. 335) sailed *for* and not *from* Charles Town in 1698 (Sibley's Harvard Graduates Vol I, pp. 496 *et seq.*). A *free* school has no connection with the payment of tuition by the pupils (p. 702). We should always remember that prior to this century a free school was one where liberal studies were taught. There seems to be a confusion as to the date of Governor Tynte's death: on page 487 it is given as 1710, and on page 720 as 1709.

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Histoire politique de l'Europe contemporaine; Évolution des partis et des formes politiques, 1814-1896. By CH. SEIGNOBOS, Maître des Conférences à la Faculté des lettres de l'Université de Paris. Pp. xii, 814. Price, 12 fr. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie, 1897.

Perhaps the most remarkable characteristics of M. Seignobos' book are its compactness and its comprehensiveness. Within the compass of eight hundred pages are contained not only the political history of every country in Europe from 1814 to 1896, but also chapters devoted to the diplomatic and military history of Europe, to Europe in 1814, to the transformation of material conditions, to the relations between church and state, and to the evolution of socialistic and anarchistic parties and ideas. Furthermore, there is a section at the close of each chapter on political history, on the evolution of the state in question, and a final chapter on the political evolution of Europe as a whole. When there be added to the above an elaborate preface and general bibliography, special bibliographies at the end of each chapter, a table of contents and an index, it will be seen that nothing has been left undone to make the work scientifically complete.

In the preface, M. Seignobos is at considerable pains to explain the plan and method of his work. He is fully aware of the impossibility of basing such a work upon the results of direct personal investigation on account of the enormous mass of material that exists for the history of the present century; and he forewarns the reader that he has drawn his evidence from second-hand authorities, and has no intention of giving proofs for all his statements. He

declares it to be his intention to write a work for the public that shall be both complete and accurate and shall consist of those facts and statements which are established beyond a doubt, and do not need verification for their acceptance; that he does not intend to present any fact regarding which there can be the least doubt, or to add a single statement that is not or cannot be obtained from existing printed works. Thus he has not produced a book which can be deemed scientific from the point of view of the sources employed, but has rather aimed to create a popular handbook for students and readers who wish to have in encyclopedic form the history of the nineteenth century. In order to carry out this idea the work was originally issued by the publishers in ten parts of about eighty pages each at the price of one franc for each fascicule.

But there is another aspect of M. Seignobos' history which is more important, and that is the method of treatment. He has not written what he calls *l'histoire narrative* or *l'histoire érudite* but *l'histoire explicative*; that is, he deals with those facts that are necessary in order to understand the political evolution of Europe without regard to others that make for color and romance. "Evolution" is constantly in his mind and is frequently mentioned in his pages, though in its application it is limited to the history of political parties and political institutions. In all the work there is not a word about art, science, literature, religion, manners or customs. Yet this statement needs to be somewhat qualified: "I have not believed it possible," he says, "to confine political history to an exposition of those events and institutions only which are properly called political. Preoccupied before all with explaining phenomena in showing how they are linked together I have reserved a place for non-political facts—local administration, the army, the church, education, the press, political ideas, the economic régime—in all cases where they have reacted on political life."

In other parts of his preface M. Seignobos explains his arrangement of material, his choice of style—short, clear and precise, fitting a scientific manual—his avoidance of all vague terms, such as royalty, church, elements, tendencies, substituting therefor precise terms, such as the names of a people, a party, or a class, or the words government, ministry, clergy. He lays just stress upon the importance of impartiality, and makes known his determination to exclude rigidly all personal sentiments and preferences. He confesses that he favors a liberal *régime*, one that is lay, democratic and western, but he believes that he is none the less able to deal scientifically with phenomena that are ecclesiastical and reactionary.

That M. Seignobos has succeeded in giving us a scientific manual that is accurate, precise and impartial is incontestable. For the teacher of European history or for the advanced student of the same subject his history is invaluable. It is superior to Bulle's, though the work of the latter is extremely able; for it seeks to explain history and not merely to narrate it. For this reason the work—condensed though it is—is no dull epitome of facts, as is Müller's "Political History;" it is suggestive in every part, full of ideas, comments, lucid arrangements, clear exposition, and independent statements that throw light on policies and political actions. It is absolutely impartial, a useful and scholarly guide to contemporary history, bound to give to him who will read it a clear understanding of present-day situations.

But M. Seignobos, in endeavoring to give his book scientific precision, has made it very unattractive from a literary standpoint. Some chapters in the work are interesting, those on the development of material conditions, on the history of the church, and on the rise of the revolutionary parties are clear and delightful expositions of historical progress. But the greater part of the work is unreadable; is too condensed, too much like a compendium, containing the material for history rather than history itself. There is an entire absence of light touches, of descriptive incidents, of biographical detail.

Despite the frequent use of the word "evolution" there is in the treatment of the greater part of the subject no real attempt to make clear the causes of things; situations are admirably explained, but the explanations do not go very far below the surface. Consequently the treatment lacks depth; there are no lights and shadows, no life to the picture, and very little true perspective. There is more exact statement than the general reader will want; there are too many facts, dates, and side issues thrown into brackets and between dashes. The style is wanting in elegance, smoothness and rhythm; the matter is not well co-ordinated nor is it logically expressed; the sentences are too short and abrupt; and what is more serious, the statements are at times so condensed as to leave an insufficient and even an incorrect impression upon the mind of the reader. For example, who will be satisfied with the following account of the circumstances leading to the war of 1859? "[Napoléon] envoya son médecin inviter Cavour à une entrevue personnelle à Plombières; c'est là que l'entente fut conclue. C'était un marché: Napoléon promettait de délivrer tout le royaume lombard-vénitien jusqu'à l'Adriatique, Cavour en échange promettait la Savoie et Nice.—La guerre contre l'Autriche avait été décidée à Plombières; mais il

fallut attendre un motif pour la déclarer. L'Angleterre, qui tenait à la paix, proposa un congrès; Napoléon y consentit. Cavour désespéré parlait déjà de se brûler la cervelle. Mais le gouvernement autrichien, au lieu d'accepter le congrès, envoya un ultimatum à la Sardaigne. La guerre fut déclarée." Three comments may be made upon this passage, which is but one of many of a similar character: First, it is written in text-book language; secondly, it is a very inadequate account of an important situation, and thirdly, it is not quite accurate, inasmuch as it was Russia, not England, that proposed the congress. Furthermore it shows how little M. Seignobos is concerned with the study of causes, else he would not have left us so entirely in the dark as to why Napoleon desired to help Italy, and why Austria so injudiciously sent in her ultimatum. Despite what has been said by other reviewers M. Seignobos has very little interest in the logical sequence of events or in the principle of causation.

It is true that M. Seignobos has intentionally limited himself to political parties and political forms, but the result is unfortunate in that it has led him to treat very perfunctorily some of the most important events in the history of modern Europe, regarding which the general reader would certainly expect to be enlightened. Even in discussing the internal history of European countries he has frequently given disproportionate space to events of minor importance. The nine years of Piedmontese history, from 1849 to 1858, are dealt with in less space than the six years of Spanish history from 1834 to 1840; the events of German history from 1864 to 1866, momentous as they were for German unity, are more quickly disposed of than is the Swiss constitution of 1848; the diplomacy of the Crimean war—which is of great importance, whatever may be said of the events of the war itself—is dismissed in a few brief paragraphs; the Schleswig-Holstein question is not treated as a whole in any one place, part of it being presented under Germany, part under Denmark and part under diplomatic history, consequently it is impossible to get a clear idea of the difficulty. Furthermore, the Mexican expedition is mentioned only incidentally; Ferry's colonial policy in France, as well as that of Bismarck in Germany, is passed over in a sentence or two, and although the work comes down to the year 1896, no reference to M. Hanotaux is given, and stranger still, the recognition of Ferdinand as Prince of Bulgaria is passed over entirely.

Nor is the work entirely free from errors. Napoleon did not propose war against Russia in 1863; he only invited England and Austria to form a closer alliance in order to make more effectual

their protests regarding Poland; the treaty of Frankfort was May 10, not May 20; the German emperor's speech from the throne was delivered on March 21, not May 21; the date of Cavour's speech on Rome is March 27, not March 28, 1861; on page 788 the "treaty of neutrality of 1888" should be the "treaty of neutrality of 1884"; Ferry's ministry in France is given in one place as ending in March, 1884, and in another as ending in May, 1885, whereas the date should be March, 1885; on one page the uprising of the Herzegovinians is given as having taken place in 1860-61, in another the date is 1862; M. Seignobos is wrong in saying that the Powers compelled Turkey to withdraw entirely from Servia in 1862, she did not so withdraw until 1867; it seems misleading to speak of d'Azeglio as a poet and not mention his many other talents. Many of these errors are undoubtedly mere matters of proof-reading; and it is truly remarkable that the slips should be so few.

But the last word upon M. Seignobos' book must be a word of praise. As a source of information; as a stimulus to further thought and study; as a guide to the literature of nineteenth century history it will be a true *vade mecum* to the teacher and the scholar. That it will satisfy the wants of the unprofessional reader I cannot believe; but its failure from the point of view of readableness and artistic presentation need not detract in the least from its value as a work of scholarship and erudition.

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Des Origines et de l'Etat social de la Nation Française. By H. SOUTHER. Pp. 520. Price, 10 fr. Paris: Giard et Brière, 1898.

France is a democracy, the development of which has been logical in the past and which needs but a few changes to make it ideal in the future. Such is the belief of the author of the work under review, four-fifths of which he devotes to substantiating the historical statement, while in the other fifth he outlines the changes necessary for the future.

The volume opens with a detailed consideration of the various racial elements which have combined to form the present French people, such as the Romans, the Franks and the Celts. We have much information regarding these races, but, in the author's opinion, this knowledge has been sought not to furnish a base on which conclusions may be built, but rather to provide an Atlas on whose shoulders a world of opinions already formed may be placed. Having maintained that none of the early migrations were properly